



Philippians Group Discussion Guide Week 4

The guide follows the same format: three questions followed by prayer. My additional questions are in italics. Please especially make sure you consider the application questions I ask. Have a great study!

Read Philippians 2:1-11.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What does the text say? In this section we are seeking to make as many observations as we can. I encourage you to mark up the text above you (underline, circle, draw lines connecting verses/words, write short comments, etc).

- Summarize the context...what was said in the preceding verses? How does this fit within Paul's thought process?
- What are key words/phrases in the passage?
 - What are the repeated words/phrases? Why are they significant?
 - What are important connecting words and how do they help us understand Paul's point?
 - What themes or ideas are being emphasized?
 - What does this passage say about God? Man? Sin?
 - What questions do you have?
- Some other questions to help discover what the text says:

- *Why does Paul say what he does in verses 1-2? What is the connection with what came before? Why is unity such a point of emphasis for Paul?*
- *Humility is a key word in this passage. Look at how and where it is used. What is humility according to Paul? If that's what humility is then what is pride?*
- *Paul wants them to have one mind. What is this one mind?*
- *This passage is one of the richest texts in the Bible describing who Jesus is. What does this text teach us about the nature of Jesus? What does it mean that he was in the form of God (Why doesn't Paul just say "Jesus is God")? What else in the text points to Jesus' divinity? What does it mean that he emptied himself? What does the text teach us about Jesus' humanity and his descent? What is the importance of Jesus' exaltation?*
- *Why do you think the early church wrote this song? Why was this so important and so foundational? Why is it so important that we have clarity regarding the nature of Jesus as fully God and fully man?*

What does the text mean?

- Describe Paul's main point in a sentence or couple sentences. What is the big/main idea?
- What are some of the subpoints? Summarize Paul's thought process and some of his supporting points.
- What other passages could be helpful in understanding this text better?
- *The Gospel turns the world upside down. How so?*
- *How is it encouraging that God exalts those who are humble?*

How do I/we apply this passage?

- What are we to think/feel/do?
- What sins does this passage expose in you/us?
- *How do you see pride in your life?*
- *How can you pursue humility? How can you count others as more significant and how can you put the interests of others before yourself? Be specific.*
- *How can your group be more unified and how you treat one another with this kind of concern?*

Pray

- What is there to praise God for from this passage?
- What sin(s) is there to confess?
- What is there to ask God for?